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Central Baptist and UnitedHealthcare extend commitment to Kentucky consumers through 2000

FRANKFORT, KY. - Kentucky Insurance Commissioner George Nichols III announced today that Central Baptist Hospital and UnitedHealthcare have made a major agreement to extend their commitment to Kentucky consumers through the rest of this year.

"I want to express my deep appreciation to both chief executives, Bill Sisson and Bill Wakefield, for personally making this happen," Nichols said. Sisson is CEO of Central Baptist and Wakefield is CEO of UnitedHealthcare of Kentucky.

On Aug. 31, both parties confirmed publicly that negotiations on a new contract had broken down and that up to 85,800 central Kentuckians would no longer have access to Central Baptist after the current contract expires Oct. 1 with UnitedHealthcare.

"Immediately after contract talks had ended, I contacted Mr. Sisson and Mr. Wakefield and asked if we could meet and if there was any way to extend their commitments on behalf of consumers," Nichols said. "As insurance commissioner, I recognized that I had no legal authority over private contract talks. What I found was that both parties were willing to make major sacrifices to extend the contract through the end of this year. They shared a common desire to give consumers time to make decisions and to assure continuity of care for patients," Nichols said. Nichols, Sisson and Wakefield began these private discussions on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

"I have personally witnessed the very positive commitment that both of these parties have for the community and its citizens," Nichols said.